



## 1.2 million beef cows in 54 Texas counties affected by Hurricane Harvey

Writer: Blair Fannin, 979-845-2259, [b-fannin@tamu.edu](mailto:b-fannin@tamu.edu)

COLLEGE STATION – The 54 Texas counties declared a disaster area due to Hurricane Harvey contain over 1.2 million beef cows, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture inventory report.

“That’s 27 percent of the state’s cowherd,” said Dr. David Anderson, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service livestock economist in College Station. “That’s a conservative estimate of beef cow numbers because 14 of those counties only have cattle inventory estimates.”

Anderson noted since it is late August, a lot of calves in the affected areas are either close or ready to be marketed. The disaster area also includes a large number of livestock auction markets and Sam Kane meat processing.

Anderson also commented on the recent USDA Cattle on Feed report.

National placements were reported up 2.7 percent. The average of the pre-report estimates was up about 6.1 percent from last year, Anderson noted.

“I think it is likely that placements in earlier months pulled cattle ahead, as has happened on the marketing side of the ledger in the first half of the year,” Anderson said. “Placements in July were lower than June, for the first time since 2007. It makes for an interesting placements chart with the counter seasonal move.”

The number of cattle on feed was reported to be 104.3 percent of a year ago.

“Another interesting point is the increasing number of cattle on feed more than 120 days,” he said. “This will bear watching. We have placed more lighter weight cattle in recent months, but we certainly don’t need slower marketings.” Higher placements in Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota indicated more cattle moving to Corn Belt feeders, but on the other side of that, Iowa placements were below a year ago, Anderson said.

For more information go to <https://today.agrilife.org>



The 54 Texas counties declared a disaster area due to Hurricane Harvey contain over 1.2 million beef cows, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture inventory report. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Blair Fannin)



The Annual Central Texas Beef Cattle Meeting  
January 16, 2018 in Johnson County

We will send out more information as soon as possible.



# Tri-County Hay Show & Clinic

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

## Johnson, Somervell, Hood Counties



October 30, 2017  
Buzzard Hollow Ranch  
500 CR 213  
Granbury, TX 76048

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT HAY SAMPLES- OCTOBER 3, 2017**

### HAY CLASSES INCLUDE:

\$5.00 per hay sample. All hay samples will be analyzed by NIR for protein, ADF, NDF, TDN, and an estimate of digestibility.

Hay samples must be from this year's hay, raised in Johnson, Somervell or Hood Counties. Hay samples may be from either square or round bales, and should be brought in a feed sack, 1/2 sack full. Entire bales will not be accepted. The Tri-County Hay Show is open to the public.

Round Bales- samples should not be taken from the outer 4-6 inches.  
Square Bales- samples should come from the middle.



### Program Schedule

5:30 pm	Registration
6:00 pm	Dinner
6:30 pm	Economic of Hay Production/ Risk Management & Market Outlook Dr. Jason Johnson, Associate Professor, Extension Economist Production, Nutrients, Weed Control Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Associate Professor, Extension Forage Specialist

**1 Hours of Continuing Education Credits by the Texas Department of Agriculture.**

(1 General)

Please register by contacting your local extension office @ 254-897-2809.  
You must pre-register by **October 26, 2017**

*Individuals with disabilities requiring an auxiliary aid or special accommodations in order to participate in this program are asked to contact Zach Davis at 254-897-2809 by October 26, 2017 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be met.*

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

## 8 Hour CEU Program

DECEMBER 14, 2017

Johnson County

Get 8 of your Continuing Education Credits  
for Private Applicator License



## Animal Supply Points set up for Harvey assistance

By Julie Tomascik, Texas Farm Bureau

A large part of the Lone Star State was devastated by Hurricane Harvey late last week. The category four storm hit farmers and ranchers along the Gulf Coast and further inland, devastating barns, equipment, crops and more.

In an effort to help with immediate needs, animal supply points have been established. To coordinate donations and supplies with these locations, contact the AgriLife Extension Animal Supply Point Hotline at 979-845-7800. The four animal supply points are below, and the list will be updated as more supply points are set up.

### San Patricio County Animal Supply Point:

San Patricio County Fairgrounds  
219 W 5th St., Sinton

### Brazoria County Animal Supply Point:

Brazoria County Fairgrounds  
901 S. Downing St., Angleton

### Harris County Animal Supply Point:

Lomax Arena  
1508 1/2 Lomax School Road, La Porte

### Chambers County Animal Supply Point:

Winnie-Stowell Park  
335 Spark St., Winnie

For more information, got to:

<http://texasfarmbureau.org/animal-supply-points-set-harvey-assistance/>

## Silver River Sweetclover – paradise for pollinators

Writer: Adam Russell, 903-834-6191, [adam.russell@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:adam.russell@ag.tamu.edu)

TALOGA, OKLAHOMA – Donning his beekeeper suit, Charles Touchstone, of Arapaho, Oklahoma, stepped a few feet inside a buzzing 90-acre field of Silver River Sweetclover planted for seed production near Taloga, Oklahoma. Some of the lacy white flowered shoots busy with bees stretched above his 6-foot frame.

Silver River Sweetclover is a new Texas A&M variety available through Turner Seed Co. in Breckenridge, and Justin Seed Co. in Justin. The variety was developed through cooperative efforts by researchers at Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension centers in Overton, Beeville and Uvalde with the help of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialists in College Station.

Touchstone, who has been a beekeeper and honey producer since the mid-1980s, likes what he sees and smells. He recently delivered 68 bee colonies on multiple trailers staged around the field for pollination, which promotes seed production for the producer and honey by his bees. The bees were active and the clover was giving off a sweet attractive aroma. “This is the best field I’ve seen in a long, long time,” he said.

Contract grower Daniel Stephenson, of Camargo, Oklahoma, planted and manages the field and said it becomes whiter and more aromatic each day as the clover continues to bloom. It was planted Sept. 1, 2016 and was four to six weeks from harvest.

The seed harvested will allow the new Texas A&M sweetclover variety to be available to the public.

Dr. Gerald Smith, Texas A&M AgriLife Research legume and grass breeder in Overton, was the breeder for the new variety and said it was bred for resistance to rust. Smith said the variety was a great option for the high pH soils found in Central and South Texas, Oklahoma and portions of the Midwest.

“Silver River is a great multi-use sweetclover that is good for grazing cattle, livestock and wildlife, and bees love it,” he said. “It is also a good cover crop because it is a legume and can take nitrogen from the air through biological nitrogen fixation and infuses it into the soil. It is probably the best available legume variety adapted to Central and South Texas.”

Smith said Silver River is one of the first annual sweetclovers released in years and that its characteristics should make a big impact for beef cattle, livestock, wildlife and honey producers throughout Texas from Dallas to Brownsville, across Oklahoma and areas of the Midwest.

Touchstone said he could not yet gauge the expected honey output but the colonies were building up well and many had started honey production. His typical honey yield is around 230 pounds per colony on watermelon patches and other fields and orchards that are more common for honey production in the area. He hopes the bees perform even better on the sweetclover.

“So much depends on the weather,” he said. “They are very active right now and we hope for dry days and maybe a little rain at night so there is some moisture on the plants as conditions warm and the bees become more active. But they are busy. They love it.”

Smith said he hopes the sweetclover performs well for Touchstone and that the variety becomes a popular variety for honey producers in the future. For now, he hopes the bee pollination efforts enhance seed production of his new variety.

Stephenson said he’s seen a mixed bag of seed sets so far but that the field has yet to hit peak bloom.

“The field gets whiter and whiter every day,” he said. “It’s not a bad field to come check on. We love the bees, and we love that smell. The air is just sweet. It smells like, well, like honey.”

For more information go to <https://today.agrilife.org/>



Beekeeper Charles Touchstone, tends to one of 68 bee colonies staged for honey production and pollination. (Texas A&M AgriLife Ext Serv photo by Adam Russell)

Contact Us!



**Somervell County Office**  
1405 Texas Drive  
Glen Rose, TX 76043  
254-897-2809  
<http://somervell.agrilife.org>

**Zach Davis**  
County Extension Agent  
Agriculture/ Natural Resources  
[zadavis@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:zadavis@ag.tamu.edu)

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**EXTENSION**

If you know of anyone who would like to be added to our Ag Producers list, please have them contact us.

# FALL 2017

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR  
TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION

Weather forecast by The Weather Company

## COMMODITY PRICES OUTLOOK

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR  
BEEF CATTLE REPORT

Beef cattle report by Darrell S. Peel, Drovers